

Research/Professional Learning Project - Online Religious Education (RE) Assessment

*Well, we know where we're goin'
But we don't know where we've been
And we know what we're knowin'
But we can't say what we've seen*

*We're on a ride to nowhere
Come on inside
Takin' that ride to nowhere
We'll take that ride*

from *Road To Nowhere* (*Talking Heads* - David Byrne)

Benchmarks: complementing our question writing process by attempting to define what a year's progress might look like – the eighth in a series of articles outlining our research/learning project

Preamble

Following on from our seventh article, where we provided a set of draft benchmarks in order to “make visible” for teachers of RE in Years 0–4 the required syllabus coverage in a format that is succinct and readily understandable, and sought to use the collective power and wisdom of teacher expertise to refine our draft benchmarks, we are pleased to provide the revised benchmarks.

Professor John Hattie’s research confirms the importance of such an approach. Hattie argues that:

[The measure of progress needs to be framed as ‘at least a year’s growth for a year’s input’ or ‘every child deserves a year’s growth for a year’s input’¹.](#)

It goes without saying that there needs to be debate and agreement among teachers about what a year’s progress looks like. Hattie notes:

[In subjects such as arts, music and physical education \(where there is a history of fewer standardised measures calibrated over time\), it is worth conducting standards-setting sessions with teachers as this can lead to decisions about expected yearly growth.²](#)

Of course, we would add RE to the above quote from Professor Hattie!

(1) So what are the revised benchmarks?

Here are the revised benchmarks, following the critique and comment we received from schools on our first draft:

¹ <https://www.pearson.com/hattie/solutions.html> (p.5)

² [ibid](#) (p.7)

AFTER ONE YEAR AT SCHOOL:

(these benchmarks relate to the Year 1 RE programme)

KNOW	SHOW	PRAY Students need experience of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God is Creator ● Jesus is God the Son and a real person, our friend ● The Holy Spirit is God the third person of the Holy Trinity ● The symbols of the Holy Spirit are fire, wind and water ● We belong to a family/whanau, school and parish ● As members of the Church we follow Jesus and try to be like him ● We are reminded of the holiness of God through people, things, times and places ● Sunday is Tapu ● Mary is the Mother of Jesus, and therefore holy. ● Children know how to start a prayer (e.g. Dear God/Lord) and to finish a prayer (Amen) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reverence, respect and care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in Church ○ at prayer time ○ and towards God's creation ● Gestures such <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ as genuflecting and blessing of self ● Love and kindness like Jesus ● Stillness, calm and quietness around prayer and prayer rituals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sign of the Cross (<i>in English and Maori</i>) ● Grace <i>before and after meals</i> ● Hail Mary ● Glory Be ● Our Father (The Lord's Prayer) ● Meditative prayer ● Morning prayer/offering ● Prayers of thanks and praise of God ● Own prayers of thanks and/or petition

AFTER TWO YEARS AT SCHOOL:

(these benchmarks relate to the Year 2 RE programme)

KNOW	SHOW	PRAY Students need experience of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God is our loving and forgiving Father ● God's gift to us are a sign of his love ● God's greatest gift is Jesus ● Jesus showed love and respect in different ways ● People are called to follow Jesus' example of love and respect ● The Bible is the Word of God which teaches us about Jesus ● Believing in God affects how people live ● Jesus is present in the Eucharist through the power of the Holy Spirit ● People gather, celebrate, live and pray in parishes as a sign of God's love and presence ● Belonging to a parishes a privilege and a responsibility ● Baptism is a special meeting with Jesus where people are welcomed into God's family, the Church ● Baptism has special symbols and rituals ● Baptism helps us to share in the life of God ● Certain qualities make people holy ● We are all saints in the making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Respect for the Bible as a holy book ● Reflect the message of the Scripture in their lives ● Demonstrate love, joy and peace in their daily lives ● Reverence, respect and some participation in Eucharist ● A welcoming, friendly inclusive attitude ● An understanding of holiness in action ● Be positive role models ● To name and share their God given gifts ● Show respect and thankfulness for God's gifts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sign of the Cross (<i>in English and Maori</i>) ● Grace <i>before and after meals</i> ● Hail Mary ● Glory Be ● Our Father ● Meditative prayer ● Morning prayer/offering ● Prayers of thanks and praise of God ● Own prayers of thanks and/or petition ● Gospel crosses. ● Our Father. ● Responses to the Scriptures. ● Rosary

<p>because we follow the teachings of Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saintliness in people can inspire others and lead them to God• Ways of celebrating the lives of Saints		
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AFTER THREE YEARS AT SCHOOL:

(these benchmarks relate to the Year 3 RE programme)

KNOW	SHOW	PRAY Students need experience of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God is everywhere and ever present in creation ● We are co-creators with God ● God speaks to us in the Scriptures ● God works through people who accept God's gift of Grace by using the Fruits of the Holy Spirit ● That the Bible consists of two testaments ● The Last Supper is the first Eucharist ● Jesus gift ● Jesus is really present in the Eucharist in four special ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Priest ○ The Word. ○ The Eucharist ○ The people gathered ● The Sacrament of Eucharist is mystery ● Eucharist is the best way we can give thanks to God ● The fruits of the Holy Spirit shows God's love ● Sin is the opposite of the Fruits of the Spirit ● The Holy Spirit helps us to forgive and be forgiven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By listening respectfully to the Scriptures and responding to the Word of God ● Respect and show interest in other cultures ● Demonstrate respect and reverence for the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist ● Demonstrate in words and actions that they bear the Fruits of the Holy Spirit ● Able to accept and receive forgiveness ● An awareness and sensitivity towards people of need ● Members of the Church are called and respond to carry on the mission of Jesus ● Show forgiveness by demonstrating a Sign of Peace ● Show compassion and respect for people who are experiencing sad times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sign of the Cross (<i>in English and Maori</i>) ● Grace <i>before and after meals</i> ● Hail Mary ● Glory Be ● Our Father ● Meditative prayer ● Morning prayer/offering ● Prayers of thanks and praise of God ● Own prayers of thanks and/or petition ● Gospel crosses. ● Our Father. ● Responses to the Scriptures. ● Rosary ● The prayers of praise (psalms), peace prayer and the Holy Spirit prayer. ● Responses of the Mass – Lamb of God, Lord I am not worthy, etc. ● Write and pray the Prayers of the Faithful ● Act of contrition ● Sign of Peace ● Traditional Prayer for the Dead (Eternal Rest) ● Traditional prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be) are known by heart/rote

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus calls his Apostles and calls us as members of the Church• The Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church are Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation• The Sacrament of Penance restore friendship with God others and self• Through the Sacrament of Penance people accept responsibility for personal choices• During Eucharist we ask for forgiveness• Sad times are part of people's lives, te wa and Christians believes in life after death and this give us hope• All cultures have rituals to farewell, pray for and remember the dead• God supports and strengthens people who are experiencing sad times		
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AT THE END OF YEAR FOUR:

(these benchmarks relate to the Year 4 RE programme)

KNOW	SHOW	PRAY Students need experience of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God is the mystery of the Father Son and Holy Spirit ● The Holy Trinity is a model of a loving community/ whanau ● God people respect the gift of God's creation because it is Tapu ● God love is expressed through the Ten Commandments ● Jesus came to show people how to live and lead them to God ● Jesus invites people to grow in holiness by sharing in his life through grace ● People share in Jesus' mission of worshipping God and bringing about the Kingdom or Reign of God "on earth as it is heaven" ● Jesus showed us how to live and love - tika, pono and aroha ● Understand that Jesus was sent to reveal the love of God and bring forgiveness of sin and healing so that people can be reconciled with God ● Pentecost is an important event ● The Holy Spirit helped the early Christians and helps people today to carry on the special work (Mission) of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrate love and respect for the tapu of whenua ● Demonstrate reverent use of God's name ● Demonstrate tika, pono and aroha ● Carry out acts of service for others, including the parish ● Be true to good promises ● Share/Receive the Sacrament of Eucharist with reverence; or receive a blessing from the priest at Communion time, showing appropriate reverence ● Show forgiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sign of the Cross (<i>in English and Maori</i>) ● Grace <i>before and after meals</i> ● Meditative prayer ● Morning prayer/offering ● Gospel crosses. ● Responses to the Scriptures. ● Rosary ● The prayers of praise (psalms), peace prayer and the Holy Spirit prayer. ● Write and pray the Prayers of the Faithful ● Act of contrition ● Sign of Peace, Prayers of the Mass – Gloria, Holy Holy, etc. ● Traditional Prayer of the Dead (Eternal Rest) ● Traditional prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be) are known by heart/rote ● The responses to the Mass are known by heart/rote ● Prayer of Thanks, Praise and Petition about the Kingdom of God (things outside of themselves) ● Words of Jesus at the Last Supper ● The Creed

<p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through Baptism we are called to holiness lived out in various vocations• Sacraments are a sign of God's presence• Each Sacrament has specific symbols, rites and rituals• The Eucharist is a Sacred Meal - Hakari Tapu• The bread and wine is changed into the body and blood of Christ by the Holy Spirit• Eucharist increases God's Tapu and Mana• Our life journey, te wa, is a journey of life toward God• The choices people make everyday influence their life and the lives of others• The relationship between the choices in life and what happens after death		
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(2) Conclusion

In providing these draft benchmarks we are seeking to make visible for teachers of RE in Years 0–4 the required syllabus coverage in a format that is succinct and readily understandable.

Such benchmarks will, hopefully, assist RE teachers in ensuring all the relevant material has been covered throughout Years 0–4 and therefore our students will be well prepared for the online RE assessment research project process.

As always, such documents are a work in progress and we welcome feedback as to how they might be revised (*particularly any errors or omissions you might note!*) and enhanced.

(3) Next Steps

In Term 2 2017, we will reconvene a benchmark writing party to draft benchmarks to outline what ought be detailed in each of the sections - “know”, “show” and “pray” – for students by the end of their Year 5 & Year 6 school years.

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